A Minister's Path: Career Trajectories in Financial Governance in Belarus

Perapadzia Zhanna

IPU - Public Administration Research Centre, School of Young Managers in Public Administration (SYMPA), Minsk, Belarus

Abstract: This study examines the career trajectories of ministers and heads of the financial bloc within the government of Belarus from 2004 to 2025. The analysis encompasses the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Taxes and Duties, the National Bank, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, as well as the specifics of personnel policies in these institutions. Based on biographical analysis and interviews with former officials and experts, it is concluded that the key factors of appointment to high positions are not only professional competencies and specialised education but also political loyalty (especially after the onset of the political crisis in 2020). Career advancement within the financial sector is often accompanied by institutionalised control, including the collection of compromising information. Ministers in Belarus have limited autonomy, and their resignations rarely result in their departure from the system of public administration. In most cases, they are assigned new posts with different nomenclature weights and functional loads. Constant movement through different positions within the state apparatus is used as an instrument of control and discipline. https://bipart.eu/picture/library/fin_block_eng_final.pdf